

Barber, Anthony

From: Mark Leece <(b) (6)>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 12:45 AM
To: Barber, Anthony; McLerran, Dennis
Cc: pedersen.dick@deq.state.or.us
Subject: Inner SE Portland Air Toxics

Categories: Glass Air Toxics

Dear Mr. McLerran and Mr. Barber,

I am a resident and homeowner at (b) (6) Portland, OR, (b) (6) of Bullseye Glass that has been identified as a source of hazardous air pollutants. I am stunned at the recent findings related to hazardous air pollutants identified near our home where I live with my wife and our four year old daughter. We have lived at this location for sixteen years, and our young daughter has lived here her whole life. Given our sixteen years living in this location, we very concerned about potential long term exposure to these hazardous air pollutants.

On Tuesday night we attended the community forum hosted by Multnomah County Health Department, Oregon Health Authority and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. We were at the meeting for 6 hours. Both my wife and I testified and asked questions. During this meeting we learned the following:

1. Bullseye has NO POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT FOR THEIR GLASS FURNACE OPERATIONS. I was floored when this fact came to light. THIS CAN BE ADDRESSED BY BASIC POLLUTION CONTROL TECHNOLOGY. Bullseye Glass is an UNCONTROLLED source of hazardous air pollutants. Regardless of their permit – current operations are creating a excess human health risk that need to be addressed now.
2. DEQ is implementing ongoing air monitoring near the facility however they were unable to provide any information regarding the monitoring frequency or when we may have initial results to demonstrate the current levels of hazardous air pollutants associated with Bullseye Glass.
3. DEQ is implementing a soil monitoring program however we understand this is under development but no details could be provided. We request that DEQ make their plans for this program available as soon as possible.

Bullseye glass has been operating in this reckless manor for over 40 years with what appears to be scarce oversight from DEQ.

I am very concerned about other additional air toxics, such as chromium and selenium, that Bullseye has not stopped using and is releasing, UNCONTROLLED, into my neighborhood as I write this email. We are imploring DEQ to continue implementing ONGOING monitoring of Bullseye and its processes as the existing permit is not protective of human health. EPA needs to engage in this mater as I do not believe DEQ is being protective.

Oregon's environmental regulations associated with water quality are some of the most stringent in the county. DEQ, EPA and the PRPs associated with Portland Harbor have spent tens of millions of dollars to address what in reality is a relatively low level threat to human health. How can there be such a disconnect when it comes to our environmental regulations and associated with air quality? Oregon needs to implement a formal air toxics program as both our neighboring states to the north and south have done. In the case of

water, we have at a minimum some means to avoid exposure. As for the air in my home and neighborhood, I have no choice but to breathe it. We need EPA to engage on this matter.

Unfortunately, I cannot turn back the clock on my families past exposure. But I am hoping that we will gain a more realistic picture of what the exposure risks might look like for residents in the affected areas going forward. The fallout from these findings will certainly be even more significant if Cd and As levels in our own health screening and those of our neighbors are elevated. At this time we are waiting for our results. Tonight my wife and I began to contemplate the possibility that these results may show elevated concentrations of these metals in our systems. If they do – staying in our home – in the neighborhood we love – may not be possible. This is real and for us it is very scary. What makes it even more insane is that there was a way to prevent these releases by implementing air pollution control technology to allow for Bullseye to manufacture their product safely.

Regardless of where the debate of past exposure leads, the residents of my community need to feel safe again. At this time, I can't say I feel safe and most troubling – I can't say my four year old daughter and wife are safe, and as a dad and husband – that sucks.

I am writing to you to communicate my deep concerns and fear as you are responsible implementing environmental policy and regulation in our region.

Clearly there are greater issues surrounding Oregon air toxics, permits and regulations. Reportedly, Bullseye is in compliance with their air permit. This is a clear failure of our regulatory system to protect the health and well being of the public. Oregon is a beautiful place to live and raise a family. Please help us to protect ourselves and preserve our State so that my daughter isn't writing this same letter 20 or 30 years from now.

I implore you to use your position to address this matter. This issue is urgent.

Sincerely,

Mark Leece, PE

(b) (6)